

They should not be a piggy-bank that Republicans turn to whenever they need a source of funds.

RECOGNIZING THE GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF THE HEARTLAND, IOWA CITY, AND THE ABILITYONE PROGRAM

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 1, 2012

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the AbilityOne Program. Over the last few years, AbilityOne has helped more

than 50,000 Americans who are blind or have other significant disabilities gain the skills necessary for gainful employment.

The AbilityOne Program, through Federal purchasing, supports community-based non-profit agencies that are dedicated to training and employing people with disabilities. Opportunities through the AbilityOne program have brought individuals into working society and afforded them the ability to receive competitive wages and benefits. The job skills and training these individuals receive go a long way to foster greater independence and quality of life. Those who benefit from the program have historically suffered from significant unemployment, but AbilityOne is turning this trend around.

I would also like to acknowledge Goodwill Industries of the Heartland of Iowa City, an AbilityOne Program affiliate. As one of 207 regional Goodwill organizations, Goodwill Industries of the Heartland serves Iowa communities by empowering people with significant disabilities to seek education and employment. With the support of the AbilityOne Program, Goodwill Industries of the Heartland's training and job placement programs help clients and their families live more independently while making positive contributions to their communities.

I want to commend the dedication and commitment of the staff of both AbilityOne and Goodwill Industries of the Heartland of Iowa City. Their work helps people with disabilities live full lives as active members of society.